

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1920

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SUBJ: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND GOC

1. SUMMARY. GOC-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) RELATIONSHIP FURTHER DETERIORATES AS GOC SUSPENDS PDC'S RADIO BALMACEDA AND CONFISCATES ESSAY BY LEADING PDC-IDENTIFIED AUTHOR. PSC IS ALSO CONCERNED OVER WHAT IT SEES AS GOC-FORCED RESIGNATION OF SOME PDC PEOPLE FROM PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) LEADER AND SENIOR MEMBER OF EX-PRESIDENT FREI'S ENTOURAGE CAME TO EMBOFF SOCIAL FUNCTION MARCH 27 VISIBLY DISTURBED OVER INCIDENT DURING THE DAY INVOLVING PRE-CENSORSHIP OF BOOK. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, PDC INTELLECTUAL, PROLIFIC WRITER, AND ACTIVIST CLAUDIO ORREGO VICUNA (1974 IVP) HAD RECENTLY SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION 120-PAGE ESSAY ENTITLED "THE IDEAL IN HISTORY," OF "WHERE GOES WESTERN CIVILIZATION" TYPE. COPIES WERE SENT OUT ROUTINELY TO FRIENDS AND INTERESTED PERSONS. MARCH 27 AGENTS OF DINA (DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE) PICKED UP PROOFS FROM PRINT SHOP. LATER IN DAY THEY RETURNED WITH DECREE SIGNED BY DINA CHIEF COLONEL MANUEL CONTRERAS SEPULVEDA AUTHORIZING REQUISITION OF ALL COPIES. SOURCE SAID BOOK COMPARED CURRENT WORLD SITUATION WITH THAT BEFORE WORLD WAR II. AS PART OF GENERAL ANALYSIS ESSAY CONTAINED STRONG CRITICISMS OF DICTATORSHIP BUT DID NOT REFER SPECIFICALLY TO CHILEAN SITUATION. SOURCE THOUGHT MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CIVIL COURTS, SINCE GOC HAS NO LEGAL AUTHORITY TO PRE-CENSOR

BOOKS.

3. SOURCE ALSO COMMENTED ON RESIGNATIONS OF PDC MEMBERS FROM GOVERNMENT AND SEMI-PUBLIC POSITIONS. SANTIAGO PRESS OF THAT DAY HAD REPORTED RESIGNATIONS OF EX-FINANCE MINISTER ANDRES ZALDIVAR (CURRENTLY PDC MONEY MAN) FROM LEADERSHIP POSITION IN PRIVATE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS, TO WHICH HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED FURING FREI ADMINISTRATION; AND OF JUAN VILLARZU RHODE AS BUDGET DIRECTOR IN FINANCE MINISTRY. ECONOMICS MINISTER LENIZ HAD TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOC FORCED ZALDIVAR TO RESIGN FOR POLITICAL REASONS; FINANCE MIN CAUAS SAID VILLARZU RESIGNATION WAS NOT POLITICAL, RATHER BECAUSE OF OVER-WORK AND NEED FOR GREATER INCOME. PDC SOURCE SAID PARTY HAD IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD ORDERED HOUSING MINISTER TRONCOSO TO OBTAIN ZALDIVAR'S RESIGNATION WITHIN 24 HOURS BECAUSE OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, AND THAT VILLARZU, PDC TECHNOCRAT, HAD RESIGNED IN REACTION. SOURCE ADDED THAT CARLOS MASSAD, PDC MEMBER AND SENIOR AIDE TO ECONOMICS COORDINATION MINISTER SAEZ, HAD ALSO RESIGNED IN PROTEST. BOTH HE SAID HAD BEEN ON POINT OF RESIGNING AFTER GOC EXPULSION OF PDC LEADER RENAN FUENTEALBA LAST NOVEMBER.

4. SOURCE MENTIONED IN ADDITION FORCED RESIGNATION OF ALFONSO URREJOLA ARRAU, PDC MAYOR OF CONCEPCION, CHILE'S THIRD LARGEST CITY.

ACCORDING TO SANTIAGO PRESS OF MARCH 28, REGIONAL GOVERNOR ("INTENDENTE") GEN. FLOODY TOLD URREJOLA LATTER HAD CARRIED OUT HIS FUNCTIONS ACCORDING TO GOC POLICY, BUT NEW BLOOD AND IMPULSE WERE NEEDED, AS IN MILITARY SYSTEM. FLOODY THEREUPON ASKED MAYOR TO RESIGN, BUT LATTER REQUESTED NOTICE IN WRITING AND TURNED OVER PREMISES TO HIS DEPUTY.

5. SANTIAGO PRESS MARCH 29 CONFIRMED SEIZURE OF ORREGO'S BOOK, NOTING STATEMENT IN COMMUNIQUE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS (A JUNTA INFORMATION OFFICE) THAT IT HAD SEIZED A BOOK TENDING "AGAINST HARMONY AND SECURITY OF COUNTRY."

6. DIRECTORATE'S MARCH 28 COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION
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OF PDC'S RADIO BALMACEDA FOR 10 DAYS. COMMUNIQUE SAID GOC ACCEPTS MOST AMPLE FREEDOM OF PRESS BUT NOT "LIBERTINISM," WHICH GOES AGAINST PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT. SAID RADIO FOR SOME TIME HAD BEEN "DISTORTING TRUTH." PROBLEM WAS BROUGHT TO STATION OFFICIALS' ATTENTION SEVERAL TIMES DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH, DESPITE WHICH DURING PAST WEEK RADIO " CONTINUED BROADCASTING NEWS AND COMMENTARIES OF DISORIENTING CHARACTER,

CONTRARY TO INTERNAL SECURITY OF STATE AND ENVIRONMENT OF PEACE, TRANQUILLITY, HARMONY AND NATIONAL UNITY CHILE IS LIVING THROUGH CURRENTLY." PRESS NOTED THAT RADIO BALMACADA HAD COMMENTED ON SEIZURE OF ORREGO BOOK IN PROGRAMS BEFORE CLOSURE.

7. COMMENT. SERIES OF EVENTS ONCE AGAIN ILLUSTRATES STATE OF HOSTILITY BETWEEN PDC AND GOVERNMENT. PDC WILL TAKE EVENTS AS EVIDENCE OF STRENGTH OF ITS RIGHTWING ENEMIES WITHIN GOC. PDC STORY ON PINOCHET'S ORDER TO FORCE ZALDIVAR OUT SEEM PLAUSIBLE. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF MASSAD'S RESIGNATION OR OF CONNECTION BETWEEN ZALDIVAR INCIDENT AND VILLARZU'S RESIGNATION, BUT AT LEAST THIS PDC SOURCE BELIEVES IT.

8. PDC HAS BEEN ON THIN ICE FOR SOME TIME IN ITS PUBLIC COMMENTARY. ORREGO'S PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT PROVOCATORY IN CURRENT CONTEXT. RADIO BALMACEDA, SINCE PRIOR CENSORSHIP WAS LIFTED SOME MONTHS AGO, HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY NOTABLE FOR ITS BROADCASTING OF NEWS NOT OTHERWISE HEARD, AND FOR ITS RECENTLY RESUMED COMMENTARIES. IN ADDITION TO RADIO'S COMMENT ON SEIZURE OF ORREGO'S BOOK, IT ALSO GAVE DETAILS NOT REPORTED ELSEWHERE OF ZALDIVAR INCIDENT AND MASSAD RESIGNATION. WE NOTE ALSO THAT PDC-IDENTIFIED NEWS-WEEKLY "ERCILLA" IS INCREASINGLY FRANK.

9. GOVERNMENT'S "LA PATRIA" EDITORIAL MARCH 31 EXPLAINED GOC ACTION AGAINST RADIO. PAPER NOTED THAT "PARADOXICALLY" SUSPENSION PROVED THERE IS "UNRESTRICTED FREEDOM OF PRESS IN CHILE," SINCE RADIO WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PUNISHED HAD THERE BEEN PRIOR CENSORSHIP. GOVERNMENT CAN ALLOW "CRITICISM, DISSENSION, DISAGREEMENT, BUT NOT DISORIENTATION, SOWING DOUBT, DISTORTING TRUTH," WHICH WAS "MARXIST-LENINIST JOURNALIST STYLE."

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10. OUR CONCLUSIONS FROM FOREGOING ARE THAT, ON PDC SIDE, SUSPICION OF AND DISTASTE FOR GOVERNMENT ARE RAPIDLY INCREASING; ON GOVERNMENT SIDE THAT, MAKING FULL ALLOWANCE FOR PREJUDICES OF OUR PDC REPORTER AND POSSIBILITY OF UNCOORDINATED GOC ACTION, THERE MAY HAVE BEEN DECISION TO CRACK DOWN ON IMPORTANT PDC MEMBERS IN NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND ON PDC MEDIA. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR HOW FAR BREACH WILL WIDEN. WHAT SEEMS CLEAR IS THAT JUNTA IS AS FAR AS EVER FROM THOUGHT OF RECONCILIATION WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT SUPPORT IT, EVEN WITH PDC CENTRISTS. POPPER

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